



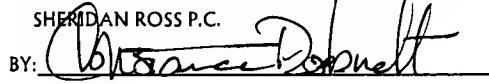
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/997,084 Confirmation No. 6101
Applicant : Konishi et al.
Filed : 28 November 2001
TC/A.U. : 2879
Examiner : Kenneth A. Berck

Docket No. : 3688ME-30
Customer No. : 22442

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

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BY: 

AMENDMENT

Sir,

This Response is filed in reply to the Office Action mailed 18 November 2003 (Paper No. 6). A request for a one month extension of time to extend the time for response from 18 February 2004 to 18 March 2004 is being submitted herewith, along with the requisite fee. Please debit any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: